GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:356
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004
REHABILITATION OF EX SERVICEMEN
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ex-servicemen as on date in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of schemes being implemented for the welfare, rehabilitation and resettlement of ex-servicemen;

(c) the number of ex-servicemen benefited thereby, State-wise;

(d) the expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and current year so far, State-wise;

(e) whether there is any proposal to increase the amount for rehabilitation of ex-servicemen;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the ex-servicemen are not getting respectable placement; and

(h) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide employment to ex-servicemen?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (h): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 356 FOR 19.8.2004

As per statistics maintained by the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), a total of 18,52,680 ex-servicemen (ESM) have been registered and reported to be surviving as on 30 Jun 2004. State wise number of ex-servicemen is given in the Annexure.

2. Rehabilitation of ex-servicemen is a continuous process and Government is having a number of schemes for this purpose. These include schemes of reservation in Government jobs, training programmes to improve their employability after retirement or release from Service, grant of loan facilities for setting up of self-employment ventures, employment opportunities through ex-servicemen Security Agencies, ex-servicemen Coal Transportation Companies, etc. State Governments are also having schemes for their rehabilitation. Besides, a number of ex-servicemen are re-employed in private sector. The data concerning ex-servicemen rehabilitated by various schemes is not monitored state-wise. The following schemes for the welfare, rehabilitation and resettlement of ex- servicemen are being implemented:-

I. REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT SCHEMES:-

(A) Re-employment:

(i) Reservations in jobs: The Central and State Governments are providing a number of concessions to ex-servicemen for their re-employment in Central/State Government posts. These include reservation of posts/relaxation in age and educational qualifications, exemption from payment of application/examination fees, priority employment to disabled ex-servicemen . The Central Government has reserved 10% of vacancies in Group C posts and 20% in Group D posts for ex-servicemen. Central Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalised Banks provide 14.5% reservation in Group C and 24.5% in Group D posts available with them. 10% posts of Assistant Commandants in Central Para Military Forces are also reserved for ex-servicemen. 100% posts are reserved for ex-servicemen in Defence Security Corps. In addition, many State Governments are providing reservation to ex-servicemen in the State Government jobs.

During the year 2003, 11659 ex-servicemen were provided re-employment.

(ii) Security Agencies:- The Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) registers/sponsors security agencies for providing security guards to various Public Sector Undertakings and industries in private sector. The Scheme, besides offering employment opportunities to ex-servicemen, also provides self- employment to retired defence officers. During the year 2003, 9543 ex-

servicemen were provided re-employment under the scheme.

(B) Self-employment

(i) Loan Assistance Schemes:- Government has formulated several schemes for encouraging and giving financial support by way of loans to ex-servicemen entrepreneurs intending to set up small and medium industries. Important self employment schemes are Self Employment for Ex-Servicemen II (SEMFEX-II), National Equity Fund Scheme and SEMFEX-III. Applications for sanction of loans are submitted by ex-servicemen directly to the concerned Zila Sainik Boards in the States. Applications are scrutinised and those who satisfy eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions are recommended for sanction of loan through banks and financial institutions. Number of beneficiaries and the amount sanctioned under SEMFEX-II, SEMFEX-III and NEF during the last three years, are given below :

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Year	SEMFEX-II		SEMFEX-III		NEF	
	No. of Cases	Amount	No. of Cases	Amount	No. of Cases	Amount
2001-2002	335	380.59	33	77.73	11	76.41
2002-2003	427	275.98	23	46.93	02	03.50
2003-2004	251	440.37	16	58.66	12	80.98

(ii) Ex-Servicemen Coal Transportation Scheme:

Directorate General Resettlement sponsors Ex-Servicemen Coal Transport Companies for the execution of loading and transportation of coal in various coal subsidiaries of Coal India Limited. The unemployed retired officers registered with Directorate General Resettlement are selected to form ex-servicemen Coal Transport Companies and are sponsored to respective coal subsidiaries for five years, extendable by another four years. Presently, 96 such companies are operating under the various coal subsidiaries of Coal India Limited.

(iii) Coal Tipper Scheme:

The widows of defence personnel who died while in service due to causes attributable to military service can be sponsored by DGR for attaching one tipper truck in their name with an Ex-Servicemen Coal Transport Company. The eligible widows have to deposit Rs.85,000/- with any one of the nominated companies towards margin money, loan processing, insurance, road tax etc. for the tipper to be acquired. The coal transport company is responsible for processing, running and maintenance costs of the tipper. The widow is paid Rs.3,000/- per month for five years and thereafter, the initial deposit amount of Rs.85,000/- is repaid to the widow. At present 227 widows/disabled soldiers are availing the benefit of this scheme.

(iv) Allotment of Oil Product Agencies Under Defence Category:

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have reserved eight percent of the Oil Product Agencies, i.e. LPG dealership, petrol pumps, kerosene distributorship etc in the marketing plan for widows and dependents of those who died in war/peace with death attributable to military service and disabled soldiers with disability of 20 percent and above attributable to military service. 521 eligibility certificates have been issued under Defence Category by Directorate General Resettlement during 2004.

(v) Management of CNG Stations in National Capital Region (NCR):

The scheme for management of CNG stations belonging to Indraprastha Gas Ltd was launched as a pilot project in July 2001. The scheme has been extended to retired officers. During 2003-04, 96 ex-servicemen have been provided placement under the scheme.

(vi) Allotment of Army Surplus Vehicles:

Ex-Servicemen/widows of Defence personnel who died while in service are eligible to apply for allotment of Army surplus/phased out vehicles. Ex- servicemen can apply to Zila/Rajya Sainik Boards for registration and onward transmission to Army Headquarters for allotment on the basis of depot wise seniority maintained by them. During the year 2003-04, 352 surplus vehicles were allotted to ex-

servicemen.

(vii) Allotment of Mother Dairy Milk and Fruit & Vegetable Shops in and around Delhi:

Junior Commissioned Officers/Other Ranks are allotted Mother Dairy Milk Shops and Fruit & Vegetable shops in National Capital Region. During the year 2003-04, 1850 ex-servicemen were provided placement by allotment of Mother Dairy Booths and Fruit & Vegetable shops.

II TRAINING:

Training for both ex-servicemen and retiring service personnel is one of the major tasks involved in the rehabilitation and resettlement. The emphasis of the programmes run by Director General Resettlement has been on organizing employment/self-employment oriented training so as to provide viable options to such trainees for commencing second career after retirement. These training programmes include courses on management, technology, imparting of technical skills, and knowledge about agro based industry etc. The number of ex- servicemen/ retiring defence personnel imparted training during the last three years and the expenditure incurred is given below:-

Year	Number of beneficiaries	Expenditure (Rupees in lakhs)
2001-2002	7,221	44.76
2002-2003	6,704	152.19
2003-2004	8,450	190.45

III WELFARE SCHEMES FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

(i) Financial Assistance from Raksha Mantri`s Discretionary Fund:

A portion of the earnings of Armed Forces Flag Day Fund is set apart as Raksha Mantri`s Discretionary Fund which is used to provide financial assistance to poor and needy ex-servicemen for various purposes viz. medical treatment, daughters` marriage, house repair, education of children etc. Monthly financial assistance of Rs. 1000/- for up to a period of two years is also provided to old and infirm ex-servicemen/widows of ex-servicemen living in penury. Number of beneficiaries and the total amount of assistance provided to them during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Number of beneficiaries	Expenditure (Rupees in lakhs)
2001-2002	754	61.66
2002-2003	2011	107.69
2003-2004	402	45.14

(ii) Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS):

Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme, introduced with effect from 1st April, 2003 is based on the pattern of Central Government Health Scheme. On retirement, every service personnel drawing pension will compulsorily become a member of the scheme by contributing his/her share. Similarly, ex-servicemen who have already retired can become members by making a one time contribution or in three consecutive yearly instalments. The rates of contribution vary from Rs. 1800 p.m. to Rs. 18,000 p.m. based on pension/family pension. The war widows have been exempted from payment of ECHS contribution. During 2003-04, an expenditure of Rs.17.22 crores has been incurred under ECHS.

Ex-servicemen/dependents who are non-pensioners would continue to get financial assistance from Armed Forces Flag Day Fund for treatment of specified serious diseases.

(iii) Educational Concessions and facilities for wards of ex-servicemen/ widows:

Reservation of seats have been made for the wards of ex-servicemen/ widows in Sainik Schools, MBBS, IITs/Polytechnics and other professional courses. Free educational facilities to children of defence personnel killed or disabled in action is provided in

schools/colleges recognised by the Central or State Governments.

(iv) Canteen Stores Department (CSD) facilities : Ex-Servicemen and their families are entitled to Canteen facilities available in Units/establishments.

(v) Travel Concession:

Rail Travel Concession: 75% concessions in rail fare for travel in II Class is available to war widows. Besides, recipients and widows of posthumous recipients of Chakra series of gallantry awards along with a companion are entitled to free rail pass for travelling in Class I/II AC Sleeper.

Air Travel Concession: Gallantry Award winners and permanently war disabled officers and their dependents are eligible for 75% and 50% concession respectively.

3. There is no specific budget allocation for operating various schemes for the rehabilitation and resettlement of ex-servicemen. The Government, however, provide budgetary allocation to Directorate General Resettlement for conducting training to ex- servicemen. Various rehabilitation and resettlement schemes are implemented by respective agencies, such as Banks, Financial Institutions, Oil Companies under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Coal India Limited, etc.

4. About 60,000 persons are added to the existing population of ex-servicemen every year. Because of limited job opportunities in the Government Sector, it is not possible to provide placement to all the ex-servicemen seeking employment assistance. Therefore, emphasis is given on creating opportunities for self-employment and placement in Private Sector by involving Financial Institutions and Corporate Sector.

ANNEXURE REFERRED T O I N THE STATEMENT GIVEN I N REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.356 FOR 19.8.2004

Sl.No.	RSB/ZSB	No. of Ex-servicemen as on 30.6.2004
1.	ANDHRA PRADESH	66552
2.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	284
3.	ASSAM	23505
4.	BIHAR	55890
5.	CHATTISGARH	3896
6.	GOA	1772
7	GUJARAT	17503
8.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	89753
9.	HARYANA	194141
10.	JAMMU & KASHMIR	61227
11.	JHARKHAND	15876
12.	KARNATAKA	56854
13.	KERALA	143710
14.	MADHYA PRADESH	33045
15.	MAHARASHTRA	157300
16.	MANIPUR	4312
17.	MEGHALAYA	2040
18.	MIZORAM	4369
19.	NAGALAND	2239
20.	ORISSA	22807
21.	PUNJAB	230616
22.	RAJASTHAN	125875
23.	SIKKIM	1144
24.	TAMIL NADU	114466
25.	TRIPURA	1965
26.	UTTAR PRADESH	213816
27.	UTTARANCHAL	113571
28.	WEST BENGAL	51361
29.	ANDAMAN& NICOBAR ISLANDS	511
30.	CHANDIGARH	7345
31.	DELHI	33545
32.	PONDICHERRY	1390

TOTAL 1852680

Note : Figures for the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Island are provisional.